

11. What classification systems are available for Judaica collections? How are they alike and how do they differ?—Sheryl Stahl

When choosing a classification (call number system) for your library, consider the following issues: Do you have Judaica only or a broad collection with a Judaica component? Do you have staff with the time and training to create call numbers or do you need find cataloging with a call number included?

The following is a chart of the available choices, with a listing of their advantages and disadvantages:

Name	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
Schemes for General Collections			
Library of Congress	Often used by academic libraries. Designed for broad collections.	Many records are available for free from the Library of Congress.	Judaica is squeezed into a few call number sections. (for example all books on Jews outside of Israel go into the DS 135 section) Buying the complete schedule is very expensive, but many libraries might get by on just buying a couple of subject areas.
Dewey	Often used by public and school libraries. Designed for broad collection.	Many records are available for free from the Library of Congress.	Judaica is squeezed into a few call number sections. Call numbers can become long and unwieldy.
Schemes for Judaica collections			
Elazar	Often used by synagogue and Jewish school libraries. Available through large bookstores/dealers. Dewey-like system of categories and subcategories.	Organized according to Jewish works.	Many of the libraries using this scheme do not have their catalogs online and tend not to belong to cataloging consortia.
Weine	Often used by synagogue and Jewish school libraries. Developed by Mae Wine and distributed by AJL. Based on Dewey, Wine reassigns the range generally used for Christianity to Judaism. Most other call numbers are the same as Dewey.	Ease of use for people familiar with Dewey. Can be somewhat integrated with Dewey catalogs	Many of the libraries using this scheme do not have their catalogs online and tend not to belong to cataloging consortia.

Freidus	Online schedule Used by the New York Public library for their Judaica collection (HUC in Cincinnati used it until the late 1960's)		
Kiev			
Scholem	Developed by Gershom Scholem at the Jewish National and University Library. An adaptation of Dewey which expands the call numbers of Jewish topics.	Ease of use for people familiar with Dewey. Can be somewhat integrated with Dewey catalogs	

Suggested reading:

Weinberg, Bella Hass "Judaica classification schemes for synagogues and school libraries: a structural analysis" Judaica Librarianship. V. 4:1 pp. 26-30